

4.0 Facility Closure

The Tracy Peaker Project (TPP) has a planned life of 30 years or more. During this time, temporary or permanent facility closure may be required. Temporary closure constitutes an unexpected shutdown for a period exceeding the time required for normal maintenance (e.g., for overhaul or replacement of the combustion turbines). Possible causes for temporary closure might include a disruption in the supply of natural gas or damage to the plant from an earthquake, fire, storm, or other event. Permanent closure constitutes a complete cessation in operations with no intent to restart operations, owing to plant age, damage to the plant that is beyond repair, economic conditions, or other reasons. These two types of closure are discussed in the following sections.

4.1 Temporary Closure

For a temporary, unexpected closure in which there is no release of hazardous materials, security of the facilities would be deployed as required, and the California Energy Commission (CEC) would be notified. Depending on the length of shutdown, a contingency plan for the temporary cessation of operations would be implemented. The contingency plan would ensure conformance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) and the protection of public health, safety, and the environment. The plan, depending on the expected duration of the shutdown, may include the draining of chemicals from storage tanks and other equipment and the safe shutdown of equipment. All wastes would be disposed of according to applicable LORS, as discussed in Section 8.13 (Waste Management).

For a temporary closure in which there is the potential for a release of hazardous materials into the environment, procedures would be followed as set forth in the Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). The HMBP is described in Section 8.12 (Hazardous Materials Handling). The procedures would include methods for controlling releases, notifying applicable authorities and the public, emergency response, and training plant personnel in responding to and controlling releases of hazardous materials. Once any hazardous material release is contained and cleaned up, temporary closure would proceed as described above for closure in which there is no release of hazardous materials.

4.2 Permanent Closure

Although the planned life of the TPP is 30 years, the actual life of the facility may vary for economic or other reasons. Regardless, the closure procedures would follow a plan that would be developed as described below.

The removal of the facility from service, or decommissioning, may range from “mothballing” to the removal of all equipment and appurtenant facilities, depending on conditions at the time. Because any conditions that could affect the decommissioning are largely unknown at this time, such conditions would be presented to the CEC, San Joaquin County, and the City of Tracy when more information is available and decommissioning is imminent.

To ensure that public health, safety, and the environment are protected during decommissioning, a plan would be submitted to the CEC for approval prior to decommissioning. The plan would discuss the following:

- The proposed decommissioning activities for the facility and all appurtenant facilities constructed as part of the facility;
- All applicable LORS and local/regional plans and the conformance of the proposed decommissioning activities with these standards and plans;
- The activities necessary to restore the site if the plan requires removal of all equipment and appurtenant facilities;
- The decommissioning alternatives other than complete restoration; and
- The associated costs of the proposed decommissioning and the source of funds to pay for the decommissioning.

In general, the decommissioning plan would attempt to maximize the recycling of facility components. Unused chemicals would be sold back to the suppliers or other purchasers or users. Equipment containing chemicals would be drained and shut down to ensure public health and safety and to protect the environment. Nonhazardous wastes would be collected and disposed of in appropriate landfills or waste collection facilities. Hazardous wastes would be disposed of according to applicable LORS. The site would be secured during the decommissioning activities.